

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11919 190447Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 DHA-02 CU-04 IO-13 /078 W  
-----094057 190449Z /21  
R 171230Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1067  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11919

EO 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: PINT SGYN YR  
SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE DISSIDENT FRONT

1. SEVERAL DISSIDENT SOURCES, INCLUDING GINZBURG'S WIFE ARINA, HAVE RECENTLY TOLD US THEY HAVE NO IDEA HOW THE AUTHORITIES WILL HANDLE THE CASES OF GINZBURG, ORLOV AND SHCHARANSKIY. MRS. GINZBURG SAID SHE WAS SURE THAT HER HUSBAND WAS NOT COOPERATING WITH HIS INTERROGATORS, BECAUSE KALUGA PRISON OFFICIALS REFUSED TO ACCEPT MUCH OF THE FOOD SHE ATTEMPTED TO SEND TO HIM IN JULY. SHE FELT THE OFFICIALS WERE PUNISHING HIM BY RESTRICTING HIS PRIVILEGES.

2. SHE NOTED THAT SEVERAL RUMORS WERE CIRCULATING CONCERNING THE REGIME'S PLANS FOR THE THREE ARRESTED ACTIVISTS. ACCORDING TO ONE STORY, THE AUTHORITIES INTEND TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH THE THREE WOULD ADMIT A DEGREE OF GUILT, THEN GINZBURG, ORLOV AND SHCHARANSKIY WOULD BE EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY. ANOTHER STORY, WHICH SHE SAID SHE BELIEVED, HAD IT THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAD PLANNED TO EXPEL GINZBURG AND PERHAPS OTHERS PRIOR TO THE JUNE CSCE MEETING IN BELGRADE, BUT THEN HAD CHANGED THEIR MINDS FOR REASONS UNKNOWN. A THIRD STORY  
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11919 190447Z

WAS THAT GINZBURG HAD BEEN USING THE SOLZHENITSYN FUND TO FINANCE A SECRET SOCIETY OF FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS. MRS. GINZBURG SAID "NO ONE KNOWS" WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE ARRESTED ACTIVISTS, AND IT COULD BE THAT THE AUTHORITIES THEMSELVES HAD NOT YET DECIDED THEIR NEXT MOVES WITH RESPECT TO THE THREE MEN.

3. THE MORALE OF MRS. GINZBURG AND ORLOV'S WIFE IRINA SEEMS REASONABLY GOOD: THE FORMER BELIEVES THAT SOLZHENITSYN AND ATTORNEY EDWARD BENNETT WILLAIMS ARE DOING ALL POSSIBLE FOR HER HUSBAND; THE LATTER SEEMS RELIEVED THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST HER HUSBAND APPARENTLY WILL BE RELATIVELY LIGHT.

4. PROMINENT REFUSENIK AND ORLOV GROUP MEMBER SLEPAK RECENTLY TOLD US THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN HARASSED BY THE AUTHORITIES FOR THEPAST SEVERAL WEEKS. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT BY HIS COUNT 22 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED REGARDING THE SHCHARANSKIY CASE, AND THE QUESTIONING CONTINUES.

5. SLAVA BAKHMIN, MEMBER OF THE ORLOV GROUP SUBCOMMITTEE ON ABUSES OF PSYCHIATRY, TELLS US THAT HIS GROUP CONTINUES TO EXIST BUT IS INACTIVE AT THE MOMENT.

6. THE LATEST MAJOR GATHERING OF MOSCOW DISSIDENTS OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE WAS THE AUGUST 13 COMMEMORATION OF YURIY ORLOV'S BRITHDAY, AT THE ORLOV APARTMENT. SOME 25 PEOPLE - A MIXTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, REFUSENIKS, AND FAMILY FRIENDS - GATHERED TO SHARE A MEAL AND LISTEN TO DISSIDENT BALLADEER PETER STARCHIK SING.  
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## Message Attributes

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